

are not special interest issues, but have an impact on all other generations as well. When we are debating and voting on these issues, we are debating and voting on our own futures. In Senator PRYOR's eyes, we are all, in fact, in this together, and one of the measures of our society is how well we treat one another.

Mr. President, America's senior citizens are losing a knowledgeable and effective advocate as DAVID PRYOR retires, and the U.S. Senate is losing a gentleman and a friend. I have enjoyed working with Senator PRYOR, and I wish him and his family all the best as he takes his leave of an institution he has served so well.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR EXON

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I rise today to extend my best wishes to my colleague, Senator JAMES EXON of Nebraska, upon his retirement from the U.S. Senate.

Senator EXON's political career stretches back to 1970, when Nebraska first elected him as their Governor, and throughout, he has built a reputation for fiscal responsibility and sober assessment of the cost of government. He carried those qualities with him when he was elected to the Senate in 1978, part of a class which is seeing several members retire this year.

In a political environment that many fear is marked, perhaps a better word is scarred, by ever-greater partisanship and ever-declining civility, Senator EXON has been able to work in a bipartisan manner and retain his cordiality, qualities which would be well recommended to any lawmaker. His dedication to fiscal responsibility and reducing the Federal deficit has led him to take many courageous stands. I am particularly grateful for his early and steadfast support of my efforts to prevent a massive tax cut from undermining our efforts to achieve a balanced budget, a position that has not always been popular.

I have enjoyed working with JIM EXON, and I hope he enjoys a well-earned retirement from public service.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR PELL

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a gentleman who has done so much to advance the cause of education in our Nation, Senator CLAIBORNE PELL, as he nears the close of a 36-year tenure in the U.S. Senate.

A recitation of Senator PELL's accomplishments and the qualities of his character that have earned him the respect of so many of his Senate colleagues would fill a sizable portion of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, but I will limit myself to a few remarks which, I hope, reflect the respect and admiration I feel for the senior Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. President, I have served with Senator PELL on the Foreign Relations

Committee since I joined the Senate in 1993, and I quickly learned to respect the word of a man who has been engaged in international affairs, and the development of America's role in the postwar world, since he attended the founding conference of the United Nations in 1945.

He has been a stalwart supporter of the movement to secure and protect human rights in all parts of the world. We have joined forces, for example, to protest human rights abuses by the Indonesian Government against the people of East Timor.

Senator PELL pressed for his country to take a strong leadership role in protecting the global environment, and he has also been active in efforts to control chemical weapons and to keep nuclear weapons from being sited on the floors of our oceans.

But, Mr. President, CLAIBORNE PELL will doubtless be remembered for another accomplishment.

Since 1973, more than 60 million Americans have received college educations with the assistance of the Basic Educational Opportunity Grant Program, known since 1980 as the Pell grants. Fathering a program that has done so much good would, in and of itself, rightly establish a Senator's reputation. For Senator PELL, it was a high point in a long and distinguished career.

Mr. President, it has been wisely said that only the educated are free. In that sense, Senator PELL has probably been as responsible as anyone for securing freedom for millions of Americans.

He also did much to improve the quality of their lives with his efforts to create and nurture the National Endowments for the Arts and for the Humanities.

If his accomplishments were not enough, Mr. President, CLAIBORNE PELL also set an example for senatorial behavior.

The people who send us here expect us to study the issues with care, conduct our business with civility and make our decisions with respect to the common good. That is exactly what Senator PELL did for 36 years, and that is why the people of Rhode Island kept sending him here.

Mr. President, I will miss CLAIBORNE PELL. I wish him every contentment in his life after he leaves this chamber, and I hope that we who remain will be mindful of his example.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR NUNN

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I rise today to acknowledge the long service of Senator SAM NUNN of Georgia and to wish him well as he leaves the Senate after 24 years.

Mr. President, I have read that, as a young man, SAM NUNN was judged by his home town newspaper back in Perry, GA as "headed for something big or important in this old world." Anyone who reflects on Senator NUNN's long and distinguished career in this

Chamber would agree that prediction was fulfilled, both in terms of "something big" and "something important." For Senator NUNN leaves behind an impressive reputation as a lawmaker.

Senator NUNN's reputation as an expert on military matters is well-known, and, of course, well deserved. But I believe that reputation inadequately describes the breadth of Senator NUNN's intellectual reach, his deliberate and thoughtful approach to the issues before him, and his skill at forging bipartisan consensus. I was particularly pleased when he became a cosponsor of the McCain-Feingold bipartisan campaign finance reform bill.

Whether the subject is national defense, economics, domestic policy or cultural values, and whether or not you end up agreeing with him, you can learn things from listening to SAM NUNN. Equally as important, you could, through his actions, be reminded of the value of respecting this institution and the lawmaking process.

Mr. President, when Senator NUNN last year announced he would be leaving this body, to the shock and surprise of nearly everyone, he expressed concern that the qualities of sensitivity and prudence were being driven out of political debate "by the extremes in both parties, who are usually wrong but never in doubt."

I am not alone in sharing that concern with Senator NUNN, and I am certain I am not alone in my appreciation for the way he has demonstrated the value of a thoughtful, prudent approach to the making of public policy.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR KASSEBAUM

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I rise to offer a few heart-felt words of appreciation to Senator NANCY KASSEBAUM as she closes the book on a truly distinguished public service career.

Last December, shortly after she announced her intention to retire, I rose to thank Senator KASSEBAUM for her leadership, her independent mind, and her graciousness, particularly in her stewardship of the Subcommittee on African Affairs. I am here today to offer a last farewell to an outstanding colleague.

Since I spoke last December, Senator KASSEBAUM has added another significant accomplishment to her career—the passage of the Kassebaum-Kennedy health insurance reform bill, and she was a cosponsor of the McCain-Feingold campaign finance reform bill, support I greatly appreciated.

I am not certain what the future holds for Senator KASSEBAUM, but no matter where she goes, she will, I am certain, always be an example of independence, intelligence, prudence, and integrity.